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PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME I. MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND DECOLONIZATION

Programme 1. Good offices and peace-making, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information

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* The present document contains programme 1 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

PROGRAMME 1. GOOD OFFICES AND PEACE-MAKING, PEACE-KEEPING, RESEARCH AND THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

A. Programme

1. General orientation

1.1 Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations gives, as the first purpose of the United Nations, the maintenance of international peace and security. The functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Security Council are, in that connection, set out in Chapters IV and V, respectively, while Chapter XV refers to the role of the Secretary-General. Article 97 states that the Secretary-General shall be the chief administrative officer of the Organization, Article 98 adds that he shall perform such other functions as are entrusted to him by, among others, the General Assembly and the Security Council, while Article 99 provides that the Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.

1.2 To serve that purpose the Charter has therefore been central to the tasks of successive Secretaries-General. In recent years, however, that responsibility has greatly increased. As rarely before, the Secretary-General is now being called upon to exercise his good offices in a widening range of situations in order to resolve disputes, to direct a growing number of peace-keeping operations established by the Security Council, and to exercise his preventive diplomacy in the interests of peace.

1.3 In order to perform those functions effectively, the Secretary-General has, accordingly, taken a number of steps to strengthen his capacity and that of the Secretariat to deal with those growing responsibilities. Thus, in March 1987, the Secretary-General established the Office for Research and the Collection of Information to monitor global trends, to provide early warning of potential conflicts and to undertake research on matters pertinent to his good offices and to peace-keeping activities. Next, in light of the increasing need for peace-keeping, the Secretary-General decided in October 1988 that the Office for Special Political Affairs should be structured in a manner that could give greater focus to the planning, supervision and co-ordination of all peace-keeping activities. Further, in January 1990, the Secretary-General established a Senior Planning and Monitoring Group for Peace-keeping Operations. Finally, in relation to his good offices and peace-making activities and missions, which had seen a considerable increase in recent years, the Secretary-General decided that those activities should be undertaken under his direct supervision from within his Executive Office, and that appropriate administrative arrangements should be made for that purpose.

2. Overall strategy

1.4 At the intergovernmental level, general and specific policy guidance is primarily provided by the Security Council and the General Assembly. At the Secretariat level, primary responsibility falls under the Offices of the Secretary-General, in particular the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office for Special Political Affairs and the Office for Research and the Collection of Information. In addition, the Office of General Services is responsible for the

provision of administrative support to peace-keeping operations, as outlined in programme 43 of the present medium-term plan, and the Office for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance provides financial services relating to peace-keeping matters, as outlined in programme 42.

1.5 The nature of the Organization's involvement in this area is clearly affected by the evolution of the international situation and is determined by the deliberative organs of the United Nations, especially the Security Council. In broad terms the strategies to be pursued under this programme are:

(a) To undertake appropriate measures to assist in the prevention and settlement of disputes; and for that purpose, and as required, to provide the good offices of the Secretary-General;

(b) To prepare for, set up and direct peace-keeping operations established by the United Nations;

(c) To undertake research and collect information to support the efforts of the Secretary-General in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security.

In respect of each situation that arises, detailed courses of action will be elaborated.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

1.6 The programme will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Good offices and peace-making

Subprogramme 2. Peace-keeping operations

Subprogramme 3. Research and the collection of information.

Given that those subprogrammes relate to the provisions of the Charter on the maintenance of international peace and security, no relative priority designation is proposed.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. GOOD OFFICES AND PEACE-MAKING

(a) Objectives

1.7 The main legislative authority for the subprogramme is the Charter, including article 99. In addition, specific activities are also covered by resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

1.8 Good offices and related peace-making activities, such as special missions, constitute the fundamental means whereby the Secretary-General fulfils his political role. As such, they are intrinsic to the manner in which the Secretary-General carries out his responsibilities on a daily basis. Such

activities by the Secretary-General are undertaken at the request of the Security Council or the General Assembly, at the request of States, or on the initiative of the Secretary-General within the framework of his responsibilities under article 99 of the Charter. The fundamental objective of the Secretary-General in the discharge of his good offices is to assist States involved in disputes or conflicts to resolve their differences peacefully in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and, wherever possible, to prevent conflicts from arising.

1.9 The Secretary-General has already undertaken specific measures to support his activities regarding the maintenance of international peace and security. In the more constructive international climate that now prevails, it can be expected that the Secretary-General will increasingly be called upon to exercise his good offices and undertake peace-making activities.

(b) Course of action by the Secretariat

1.10 In implementing the subprogramme, the Secretary-General will seek through appropriate administrative arrangements:

(a) To make his good offices available or provide other forms of intercession to assist parties to a dispute in dealing with problems that may affect international peace and security;

(b) To undertake special missions or other tasks decided upon by the Security Council and the General Assembly;

(c) To undertake activities connected with the discharge of his responsibilities under article 99 of the Charter.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

(a) Objectives

1.11 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from those resolutions and decisions, particularly those of the Security Council, which relate to specific operations.

1.12 Peace-keeping operations have generally been based on the following principles: a clear mandate; the consistent support of the Security Council; the co-operation of the parties in conflict; the readiness of Member States to make available personnel and resources; a geographically balanced composition; an effective and integrated United Nations command; and adequate financial and logistical support.

1.13 Peace-keeping operations have demonstrated their worth in contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security. Such operations are currently in existence in several areas of the world. The first objective of the subprogramme will be to direct existing operations.

1.14 The second objective of the subprogramme will be to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of the United Nations in conducting peace-keeping operations. Following the recent increase in the number of peace-keeping operations and of

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potential new missions under active consideration, the capabilities of the Organization to conceive, plan, direct, execute and administer such operations at a time when retrenchments have taken place have been severely taxed. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly, acting on the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, adopted a number of decisions aimed at improving the ability of the Organization to meet those increased demands and at facilitating support of those operations by Member States.

1.15 As part of this process, the Secretary-General, in January 1990, established the Senior Planning and Monitoring Group for Peace-keeping Operations, which consists of senior staff concerned with different aspects of such operations. The Group is chaired by the Secretary-General, or in his absence by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, and advises the Secretary-General on peace-keeping and related matters, including preparation of contingency plans for possible new peace-keeping operations and related activities; monitoring of the conduct of existing peace-keeping operations and related activities; and review of the organizational structure within the Secretariat that deals with matters related to peace-keeping operations. It also advises the Secretary-General on budget formulation and the monitoring and control of regular budget and extrabudgetary funds related to peace-keeping activities.

(b) Course of action by the Secretariat

1.16 In implementing the subprogramme, the Secretary-General, assisted particularly by the Office for Special Political Affairs, will undertake the following activities:

(a) To prepare for, set up and direct peace-keeping operations;

(b) To maintain liaison with Member States concerning participation in such operations;

(c) To ensure co-ordination among the departments involved and submit reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. RESEARCH AND THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

(a) Objectives

1.17 The legislative mandate for the subprogramme derives from Articles 98 and 99 of the Charter and General Assembly resolutions 41/70, 41/213 and 44/164.

1.18 Member States have stressed that the United Nations, through its relevant organs, should deal in a timely and urgent manner with potential or actual threats to the peace or with acute humanitarian situations. This requires a reliable and well-organized system for collecting, analysing and disseminating information for early warning of potential conflict areas where the United Nations could be of assistance in resolving disputes by peaceful means.

1.19 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To ensure that the pertinent United Nations organs are provided with information that can assist in the consideration of the most appropriate manner of

responding to impending or actual situations that have or are likely to have repercussions on the maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) To ensure that the Secretary-General is kept fully informed of international situations and trends in order to facilitate the discharge of his responsibilities.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

1.20 In implementing the subprogramme, the Office for Research and the Collection of Information will undertake the following activities:

(a) Providing early warning of developing situations requiring the attention of the Secretary-General;

(b) Collecting, consolidating and arranging timely distribution of political information from news agencies and the media and from United Nations information centres on developments related to peace and security for use by the Secretary-General and senior officials;

(c) Maintaining and further developing, as well as computerizing, a central data base system related to peace, security and emergency situations for use by the Secretary-General and senior officials;

(d) Assessing global trends based on publicly available information and research work and preparing for the use of the Secretary-General country, regional, subregional, and issue-related profiles in close consultation with officials dealing with negotiations and conflict resolution, bearing in mind the necessity to avoid duplication;

(e) Enhancing consultative and information sharing arrangements with other political departments and offices; promoting co-ordination of the long-range research, analysis and information functions of the Secretariat regarding political affairs and emergency situations; and organizing thematic interdepartmental task forces by the Secretary-General on issues of special interest to the Secretary-General and to the international community;

(f) Establishing and maintaining contact with organizations within the United Nations system, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the academic community in order to keep abreast of research relating to the discharge by the Secretary-General of his responsibilities regarding the maintenance of international peace and security;

(g) Monitoring of information and developments relating to possible flows of refugees, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/70 and 44/164.

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PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME I. MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND DECOLONIZATION

Programme 2. Political and Security Council affairs

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* The present document contains programme 2 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

PROGRAMME 2. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS

A. Programme

1. General orientation

2.1 The basic mandate for the programme is the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 12 (I) of 13 February 1946, in which the Assembly designated the Department of Security Council Affairs as a principal unit of the Secretariat. Its primary purpose is to provide effective substantive support for the Security Council and the General Assembly, and to their subsidiary bodies, as well as to prepare related political studies and analyses in order to strengthen the role of the Organization in the maintenance of peace and security, contribute to the prevention of conflicts and to the peaceful settlement of disputes, promote security and co-operation in regions or zones of peace and promote peace on a global basis.

2.2 Over the years, changes in the international situation and the admission of new Members to the United Nations have contributed to an increase in the range of problems dealt with by the Organization. By their very nature, the issues coming before the political organs of the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, tend to be of a complex, politically sensitive and urgent nature and their timing unpredictable. Recent international developments and the increasing role of the Organization in promoting international peace and security have significantly increased the number of such issues and, as a result, the planning and co-ordination of the work of the Secretariat in connection with the effective servicing of political organs in a manner responsive to changing needs have become all the more important. Such planning and co-ordination also serve to support the efforts of the Secretary-General in dealing with negotiation and conflict resolution with respect to major issues of international peace and security that are brought before the Security Council and other political organs. It is to be expected that, as some conflicts become susceptible of political solution, the Council will, in addition to dealing with existing and emerging issues, have to be ready to respond to a new challenge in facilitating the transition from a state of conflict to a state of normalcy in those regions of the world in which it has played a role.

2. Overall strategy

2.3 Activities under this programme will be carried out by the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, primarily through the Security Council and Political Committees Division and the Political Affairs Division. A description of the functions of the Department is contained in section I of the Organization Manual of the Secretariat (Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/Organization).

2.4 The Department will continue to provide substantive services, including procedural advice, to the Security Council and its subsidiary organs and to the First and Special Political Committees of the General Assembly. In doing so, it will serve as liaison with presiding officers and members; prepare reports, analyses and background material; and maintain contacts with organizations of the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations regarding the promotion of peace, including co-ordination of the world-wide annual observance of the International Day of Peace.

2.5 In carrying out those activities, the Department will need to ensure effective co-ordination with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs and the Office of Legal Affairs, in connection with the work of the Security Council, and with a number of other departments and offices, including Offices of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General in connection with the fulfilment of their responsibilities, the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, especially in connection with the work of the Trusteeship Council, the Department of Public Information in connection with the work of the Special Political Committee and preparation of information materials and publications, the Department for Disarmament Affairs in respect of providing substantive services to the First Committee of the General Assembly and in respect of its substantive support for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs in connection with the work of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and its Working Group, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in connection with the responsibilities of the UNRWA Working Group and the servicing of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to Palestine Refugees, the Office of Legal Affairs in connection with preparation of studies regarding the application of 44 Articles of the Charter and review of drafts prepared by other departments prior to their final approval, for which that Office has overall responsibility, and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the Office for Research and the Collection of Information on political studies and analyses.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

2.6 The programme on Political and Security Council affairs will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Security Council and political committees activities

Subprogramme 2. Services for political and security affairs

2.7 Given that both subprogrammes relate to the provisions of the Charter on the maintenance of international peace and security, no relative priority designation is proposed.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. SECURITY COUNCIL AND POLITICAL COMMITTEES ACTIVITIES

(a) Objectives

2.8 Legislative authority for this subprogramme is provided by the Charter, specifically Articles 1, 7, 10, 11, 22, 24, 28, 29 and 98, as well as General Assembly resolution 12 (I) and Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/Organization.

2.9 Action by the United Nations to promote the maintenance of international peace and security has, over the years, included dispatch of fact-finding missions, conciliation or good offices missions, military observer missions, truce supervision missions and peace-keeping operations, as well as mediation efforts

between parties concerned. The United Nations has thereby helped to prevent the outbreak of hostilities in many cases or has brought hostilities to an end. The Security Council has been involved in conflict prevention, conflict containment and conflict resolution, as well as in peace-making and political institution-building. Its involvement in the resolution of global conflicts, whose manifestation in regional problems has occupied the Council from the outset, one of the Council's most important contributions to the maintenance of peace, has provided the appropriate frame of reference for control of intractable conflicts by stages in terms susceptible of eventual negotiated settlement. Those, and other efforts undertaken in response to resolutions and decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, require that the Secretary-General be provided with effective and timely substantive support in order to enable him to carry out the numerous tasks entrusted to him. Given the unpredictable and frequently urgent nature of many issues, especially those dealt with by the Security Council, there is a need to ensure the availability of effective support services at all times. This is all the more true in the light of the recently accelerating pace of change in international affairs. Those developments have also contributed to an expansion in the size and complexity of the political agenda facing the General Assembly.

2.10 This subprogramme will aim to ensure that adequate and effective substantive services are provided to the policy-making organs of the United Nations dealing with the maintenance of international peace and security, thereby strengthening their capacity to tackle the major issues of peace and security brought before the Organization, as well as to political missions away from Headquarters.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

2.11 In implementing this subprogramme, the Department, and in particular the Security Council and Political Committees Division, will:

(a) Provide substantive services to intergovernmental organs, in particular the Security Council and its various subsidiary organs, including any new subsidiary organs that may be created during the plan period; the Military Staff Committee; the First Committee of the General Assembly; the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly; and subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly, including the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and its Working Group, the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, and the Ad Hoc Committee for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to Palestine Refugees, as well as other new subsidiary organs that may be created by the Assembly during the plan period;

(b) Provide, as required, substantive services for Security Council and other political missions away from Headquarters and for Security Council meetings away from Headquarters;

(c) Maintain necessary liaison with delegations and with other United Nations bodies and organizations of the United Nations system;

(d) Prepare the annual report of the Security Council, the Répertoire of the Practice of the Security Council and other reports and studies called for by decisions of the deliberative bodies concerned;

(e) Provide substantive contributions to other departments/offices on issues related to the work of the Security Council, the General Assembly and their relevant subsidiary bodies.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. SERVICES FOR POLITICAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS

(a) Objectives

2.12 Legislative authority for this subprogramme is contained in the Charter, specifically Articles 1, 22, 34, 36, 37 and 99, as well as General Assembly resolution 12 (I), Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/Organization and General Assembly resolutions 41/12, 42/91, 42/93, 43/22, 43/61, 43/86, 44/11, 44/20, 44/120, 44/124, 44/125 and 44/126.

2.13 With the advent of a new emerging global situation and a new and enhanced role for the Organization in the structure of international relations, support is needed for the efforts of the Security Council and other intergovernmental bodies concerned and for those of the Secretary-General through the provision of pertinent information, advice, analysis of political and security issues, and effective substantive support that could contribute to overall efforts to enhance the prospects of international peace and security.

2.14 Within the overall objective of the programme, this subprogramme will aim to maintain an overview of bilateral, regional and international developments; identify potential sources of crisis management; encourage negotiated settlement of differences; and ensure effective implementation of intergovernmental decisions in the areas of international and regional security, peace and research, and the promotion of peace.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

2.15 In implementing this subprogramme, the Department, and in particular the Political Affairs Division, will:

(a) Prepare background papers, analyses and assessments with a focus on longer-range and security issues and on international developments relevant to responsibilities of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security and on regional security, co-operation and zones of peace;

(b) Prepare reports for submission to the General Assembly on issues of international peace and security and on regional security, co-operation and zones of peace;

(c) Collect and analyse views of Member States on problems concerning peace and security and prepare reports accordingly, as requested by the General Assembly;

(d) Undertake and co-ordinate studies and projects in peace research and for the promotion of peace;

(e) Service the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean with a view to implementing the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace;

(f) Provide substantive servicing for annual sessions of the First Committee as they relate to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, the question of Antarctica and the international security items dealt with in that Committee -

including the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region and the review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security - the promotion of peace and regional security, co-operation and zones of peace; and assist Member States in the implementation of resolutions, decisions and recommendations dealing with international peace and security;

(g) Co-ordinate the annual observances of the International Day of Peace and the International Week of Science and Peace;

(h) Prepare various information materials related to peace issues;

(i) Assist and advise non-governmental organizations and academic institutions undertaking projects in the promotion of peace.